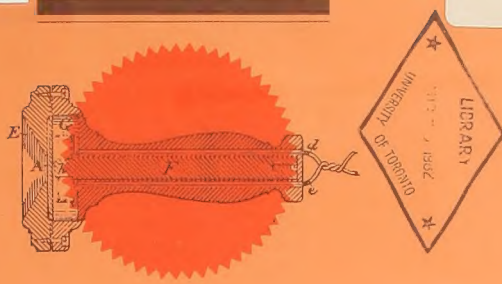




What is a Patent?

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A patent is a grant from the Canadian government which gives an inventor the sole right to make, use and sell an invention for a period of 17 years. A patent holder then becomes the owner of an "intellectual property", formed by the use of intellectual creativity. The right conferred by a Canadian patent extends throughout Canada, but not to foreign countries. Patent rights for other countries must be applied for separately.

Patents are granted for products, compositions, apparatuses and processes that are:

- New** — (first in the world)
- Useful** — (functional and operative) and
- Inventive** — (not obviously related to what was previously known in a specific area)

A Patent is not to be confused with:

Copyrights, industrial designs, and trade marks, which are also forms of intellectual property. Patents are for structure and function, whereas:

Copyrights are for literary, artistic, musical and dramatic works

Industrial Designs are for shape, pattern or ornamentation of an industrially produced object

Trade Marks are words, symbols of slogans, or combinations of two or more of these which represent the origins of different goods and services

Getting your Patent

Since the preparation and processing of patent applications can be quite complex, the Patent Office recommends that inventors consult a Patent Agent trained in this specialized practice and registered to appear before the Patent Office. A list of Registered Patent Agents may be obtained by writing to the Patent Office.

Applications for the patent of an invention are dealt with in strictest confidence by the Patent Office.

Patents are not secret

Each patent contains a full, clear description of the invention disclosed or described. Upon being granted, a patent is open to the public. Although the invention cannot be used for 17 years without the patent owner's permission, the information in the patent is available to all. A copy of any Canadian patent may be purchased from the Patent Office.

Information contained in patents can be a springboard for further inventions, and can be useful to all those wishing to be updated in the latest technological advances.

The Patent Office
With more than 1,000,000 Canadian patents issued and several million foreign patents on its files, the Canadian Patent Office is probably one of the largest treasures of technological information in the country. The files in the Patent Office are completely open to the public.

A few examples of Canadian inventiveness

Patent No. 1 — the first patent under the 1869 Patent Act was granted to W. Hamilton for "A Machine for Measuring Liquids".

The first banquet prepared entirely by electricity was served at the Windsor Hotel, Ottawa, in 1892, with an electric cooking oven pioneered by a Canadian inventor, Thomas Ahern. He obtained patents 35896, 39917, 39906, 39916, 39915, 38976, 39507 and 39508, mainly in the electrical field.

The snowmobile was developed in Canada by the eminent inventor Armand Bombardier. From 1937 to 1964 he obtained 24 patents from number 367104-724395. These include:

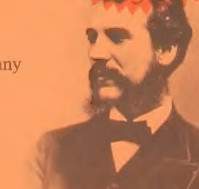
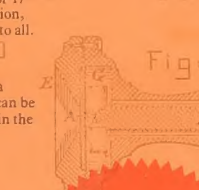
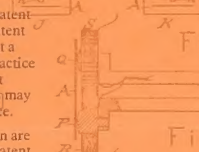
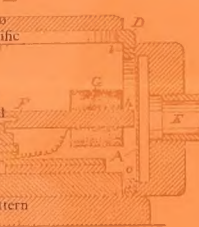
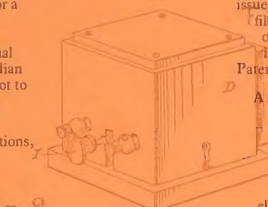
- 367104, 405584, 410471, 419642,
- 421051, 422404, 422405, 428317,
- 437969, 440193, 478066, 483846,
- 486645, 501968, 521164, 527713,
- 602601, 617529, 620519, 621783,
- 632339, 645245, 720023, 724395.

Alexander Graham Bell was the first to transmit voice conversation over telegraph wire, in a call from Brantford, Ont., to Paris, Ont. in 1876. Patents 7789, 26701 and 26710 describe various inventions made by him.

Drs. Banting and Best of Toronto, discovered insulin. Their invention is described in patent 234,336 granted in 1923.

As an employee-inventor, chemist Helena Kucharska of Weston, Ontario is perhaps more typical of modern day inventors. In 1972 she received patent 902292 for her method of preparing thermosetting phenolformaldehyde resins. "My patent was taken out", she says, "to protect a new method." As a result, a marketable product has been developed by her company, to which her patent is assigned.

A simpler invention, perhaps, but also patentable was the "Replaceable Blade and Shank for a Hockey Stick", more commonly known as the "superblade", patented by Frank Bassett of St. Catharines in 1970 (patent 847193).



If you wish more information on any of the points discussed here, please write to:

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Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada / Consommation et Corporations Canada

Canada

Les renseignements contenus dans les brevets peuvent servir de base à de nouvelles inventions et sont une source utile de documentation pour les personnes qui veulent se tenir au courant des derniers progrès technologiques.

Autre invention, plus simple peut-être mais également brevetable, citons la "lame remplaçable" pour bâton de hockey, mieux connue sous le nom de "superlame", qui a été brevetée par Frank Bassett de St. Catharines en 1970 (brevet n° 847193).

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